

MEMO



To: Idaho Water Resource Board
From: Bill Quinn, P.E., Technical Engineer
Planning and Technical Services Division, IDWR
Subject: Early Season Recharge Summary: March 20 through July 7, 2009
Date: July 13, 2009

Early season recharge far exceeded expectations this year with over 103,000 acre - feet recharged between March 20th and July 7th. With abundant water available for recharge due to average to above average snow accumulation in the Upper Snake River Basin, favorable weather conditions creating a cool and wet spring, the Board's Snake River recharge right remained in priority until July 7th. Figure 1 indicates the location of the canals that participated in the Board's early season recharge program, and the volumes recharged by each.

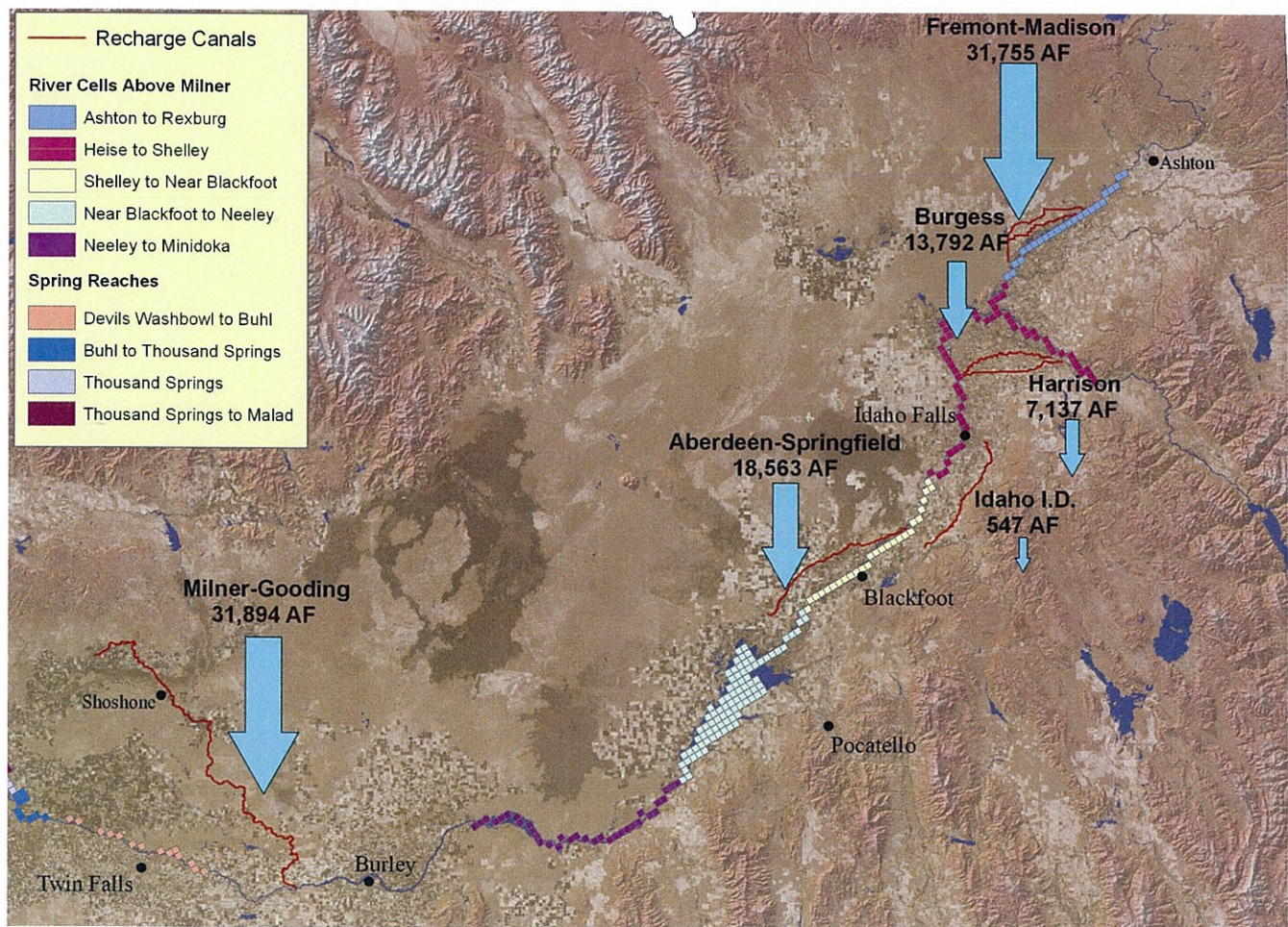


Figure 1. – Location of Recharge Canals, Volumes Recharged, and River Reaches Affected by Recharge.

Table 1 summarizes accomplished recharge and fees earned by participating canal companies or irrigation districts. These numbers are currently being verified, but it is expected the final recharge volumes will be very close to those indicated in the table. Fees paid to the participating canal companies for conveying the Board's recharge water varied from \$0.50 to \$3.00 per acre-foot. The unit cost is \$2.09 per acre-foot.

2009 Snake River Recharge Summary through July 7			
Canal	cumulative volume a-f	conveyance fee \$	notes
Aberdeen-Springfield*	18,563	40,438	shutdown 4-26 resume 6-1
Burgess	13,792	41,377	shutdown 7-7 shutdown 5-5
Fremont-Madison I D	31,755	15,878	shut down 7-4
Harrison	7,137	21,412	shut down 5-10
Idaho I D	547	1,640	shut down 4-17
Milner-Gooding	31,894	95,683	shut down 4/12 resumed 4/20 shut down 5-29 resume 6-6 shut down 6-30
TOTAL	103,689	216,427	
* conveyance fee includes \$3,312 for system improvements per terms of agreement			

Table 1. – 2009 Snake River Recharge through July 7.

Approximately 69% of the total recharge was above American Falls Dam and 31% below American Falls Dam, as indicated in Figure 2.

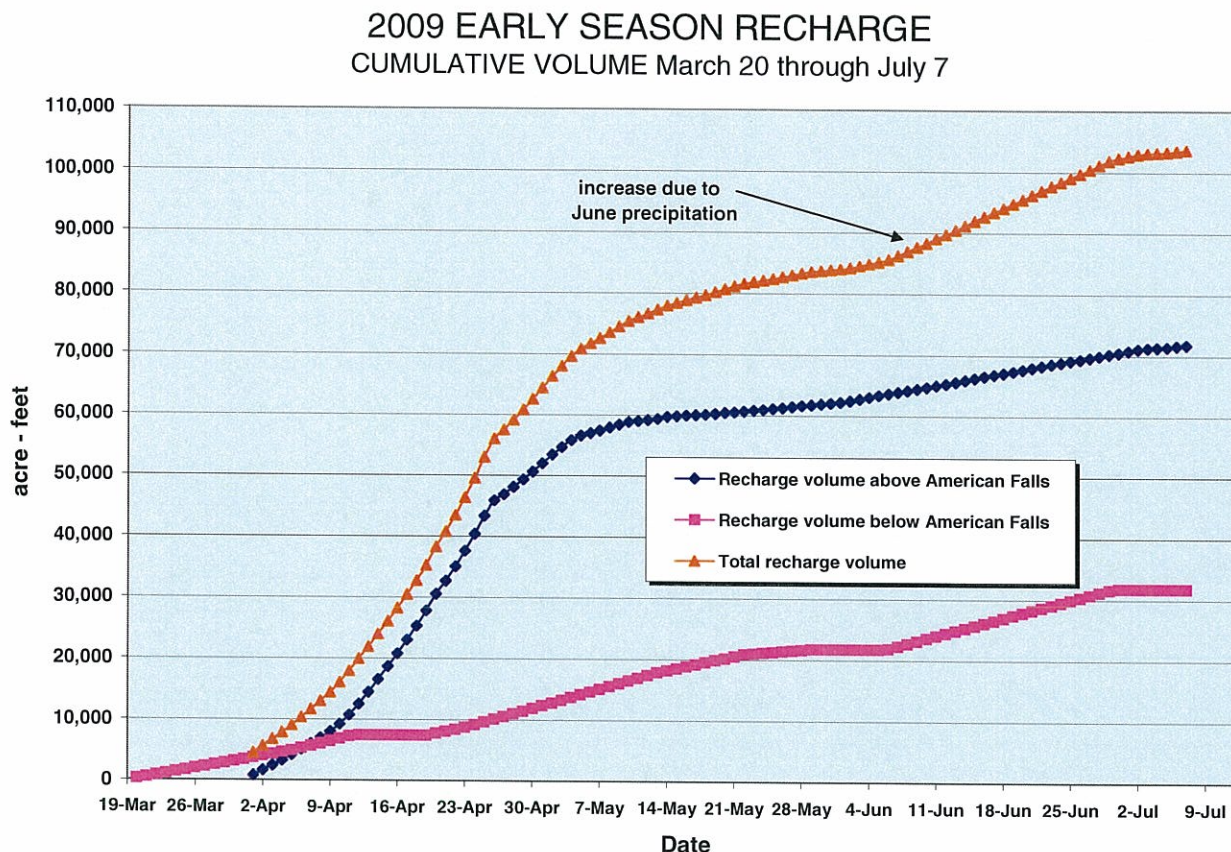


Figure 2. - 2009 Early Season Recharge Cumulative Volume March 20 through July 7.

The abundance of recharge water and the participation of the six canal companies in the 2009 early season recharge program provided an opportunity for the Board to file proof of beneficial use on the Board's Snake River recharge right (01-7054) which is expected to result in licensing of the right for the full permitted 1,200 cfs. The maximum combined recharge flow, 1,742 cubic feet per second, occurred on April 25th. Combined recharge flows and component flows of participating canals are indicated in Figure 3, below.

While there were no problems in managing the recharge agreements between the Board and the canal companies, there are certain aspects of the standard agreement which could be improved. For example, it is expected that the clarity of future recharge agreements will reflect better definition of flow measurements, frequency of reporting, and under what conditions recharge can be accomplished once irrigation deliveries have begun, among others. Staff expects that there will be increased enthusiasm among canal companies and irrigation districts in the Snake River Basin to participate in future years.

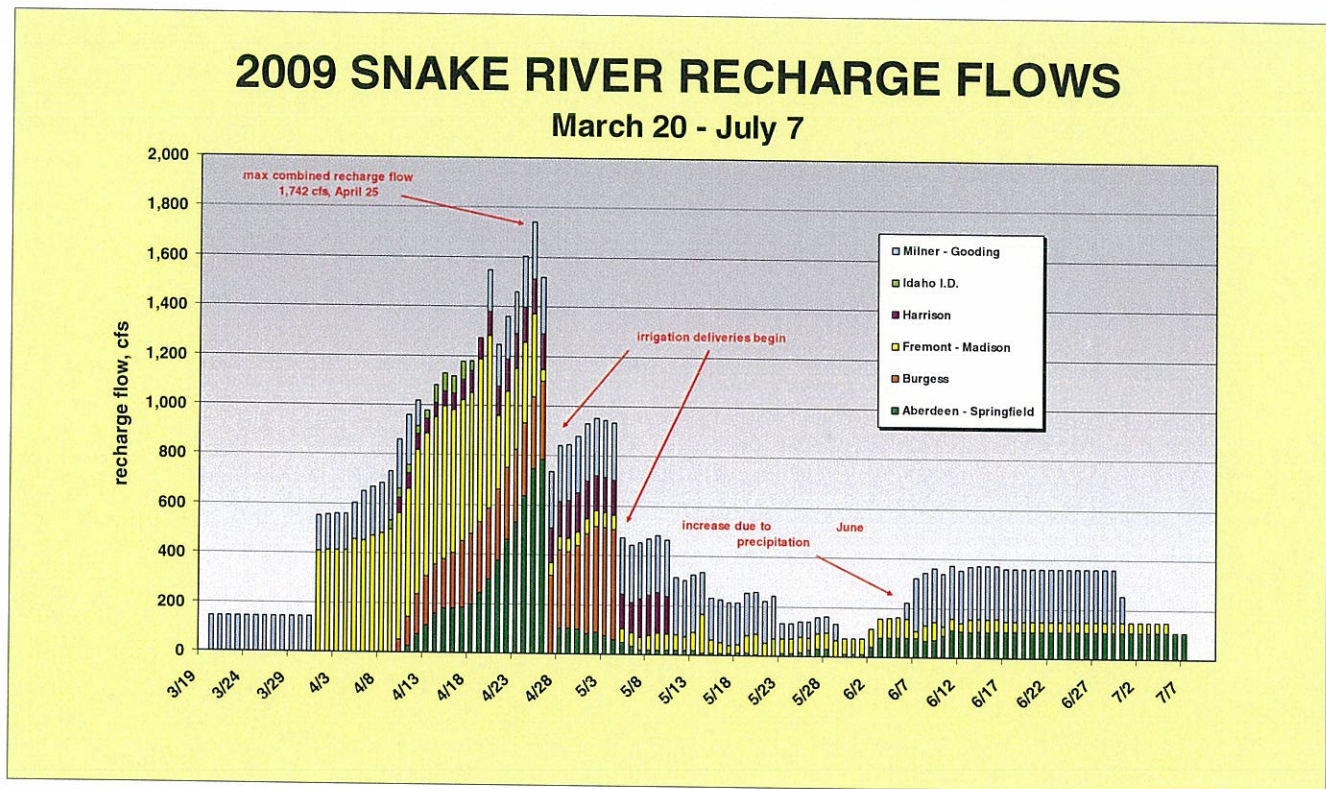


Figure 3. – 2009 Snake River Recharge Flows March 20 – July 7.